



# Financial aid scam benefits wealthy families

Journalists uncover dozens of misleading financial aid cases along North Shore

*by Hope Talbot*

Recent exposé pieces published by the Wall Street Journal and Propublica Illinois exposed an alarming trend in the pool of chicagoland financial aid applicants. There were several confirmed cases in which suburban parents have given up legal guardianship of their high schooler as a legal loophole to dodge the full price tag of colleges.

Admissions scandals have been front and center in national news recently. “Desperate Housewives” star Felicity Huffman, was sentenced last week to fourteen days in jail after paying \$15,000 for her daughter’s test scores to be boosted. Out of the 51 accused varsity blue parents, Full House actress, Lori Loughlin, has still not been sentenced after getting her daughter into USC, claiming she was a talented rower when she was not involved in any kind of athletics.

With the good majority of colleges being too expensive for the average American, millions of high school seniors applied for forms of financial aid last year, such as need-based funding such as Pell grants.

Eligibility for financial aid programs is based on an evaluation



The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign unknowingly granted aid as a result of this legal loophole | Wikipedia

of family income, which is why some suburban parents are turning over custody to friends, family, and sometimes even neighbors. Upon giving up guardianship, the student is now seen as an independent and the families income and financial history cannot be accessed by colleges.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign officials said they were startled when 14 instances of this guardianship scandal was detected in the spring of 2018 but much to the schools frustration the practice is still technically legal because a judge must approve the transfer of custody. Five other colleges reported similar inconsistencies.

One of these seniors, whose parents owned a 1.2 million dollar home, was evaluated for their summer job earnings and received \$47,000

in Pell grants post guardianship swap for a school that costs around \$65,000.

School officials found suburbs such as Lake Forest, Northbrook, Libertyville, and Deerfield to be hotbeds for this trend by tracking a suspicious amount of FAFSA information requests by schools that were notoriously wealthy. According to the Wall Street Journal, 38 cases were confirmed in Lake County Illinois.

“My mom always talked about giving me up to a family in Schaumburg who isn’t really that wealthy, but the process takes two years with all the forms so it never happened,” said one New Trier Senior who wished to remain anonymous.

On Aug. 8, U.S Department of Education spokeswoman, Elizabeth

Hill, addressed these parents in a statement, “The laws and regulations governing dependency status were created to help students who legitimately need assistance to attend college.” claimed Hill, “Those who break the rules should be held accountable, and the Department is committed to assessing what changes can be made-either independently or in concert with Congress-to protect taxpayers from those who seek to game the system for their own financial gain.”

Upon further investigation, officials found that the name Lora Georgieva seemed to be involved in most of the confirmed cases. Georgieva, a Certified College Planner, and owner of the Lincolnshire based college planning firm, Destination College, promised

clients on the companies website that she could save them \$30,000 a year between grants and scholarships.

During several interviews, Georgieva denied being involved in anything illegal but did say she was concerned that press coverage would encourage more parents to use the loophole and that Congress should act quickly to fix it. This is especially scary as pell grants are given out on a first come first serve basis.

New Trier Post-High School Counselor, Dan Rogan, stressed the seriousness of aid fraud, “New Trier’s counseling department has never helped anyone to do that. I think we would only be aware of this if a student were to share that with us. I think it’s a practice that sometimes is fueled by people that are unethical who offer services to these parents,” said Rogan,

“Technically, by law it’s legal, but things that are legal aren’t always the right thing to do. It’s not ethical because you’re stealing from students who really deserve the aid.”

Towards the end of Huffman’s hearing, U.S assistant attorney Eric Rosen, ended the Varsity Blues trial with a message to the families of college applicants, “Parenthood is terrifying, exhausting and stressful, but that’s what every parent goes through...What parenthood does not do, it does not make you a felon, it does not make you cheat, in fact it makes you want to serve as a positive role model for your children.”

## Contaminated bins inhibit environmental efforts, recyclable material thrown away

Single contaminant can result in disposal of entire bin

*by Alex Rubinstein*

As climate change has become a large focus in society, recycling has become more popular. At New Trier however, student participation in the recycling program is still lacking.

Part of the issue is that students throw their things, especially food, in the trash without taking the time to think about, and be mindful of, recycling. Rumors about New Trier not actually recycling contributes to the lack of participation and has become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

“I know a lot of people think that New Trier doesn’t even recycle, and so when someone thinks that New Trier doesn’t recycle, then they don’t care what they put into the recycling, so they end up [contaminating the bin] making it true.” said Environmental Club co-president Will Kincaid.

“It’s a positive feedback loop and the problem gets worse and worse because the rumor spreads that New Trier doesn’t recycle, so people are less mindful about where they put things,” added Environmental Club co-president, Josh Glucksman.

Building operations manager on the Winnetka campus, Erik Munson, confirmed that New Trier does in fact recycle.

“We use Lake Shore Recycling.

They take the recycling to a place called Heartland in Northbrook, and from there it’s sent to a multi-recycle facility or a material recovery facility where it’s sorted, bailed, and sold as different types of product,” said Munson.

New Trier has around 4000 students, and yet the school only recycles about two tons every week. That is less than half a pound per student per week, and part of this is due to contamination.

A single item can contaminate all of the recycling that touches it. New Trier doesn’t have the manpower on campus to sort through the bins, so as a result, contaminated bins just get thrown away.

**New Trier has around 4000 students, and yet the school only recycles about two tons every week.**

“It is important to make sure that the cardboard and paper that’s put in the recycling isn’t contaminated with food residue because then it will automatically not be recycled.” Munson said.

Once the recycling is picked up and taken to the recycling plant, where it is sorted. From there, if too much of the load is contaminated, all of the school’s recycling can be rejected.

“At a certain percentage of load that’s contaminated, that load gets rejected. What I was told is that basically 10% can be contaminated before it’s rejected. I haven’t had a rejected load in the last year, so we are doing really well, considerably better,” said Munson.

The Environmental Club has worked on creating signs to help increase participation in the recycling program.

“I know that at New Trier, it’s a very fast paced school. Everyone’s always rushing to their next thing. Everyone’s very busy, but if you look up, there are a bunch of really good signs all around the school, especially near the trash cans, that tell you exactly what to do and how to recycle. If you just look up and spend an extra second, it really makes a difference.” said Glucksman

The signs mainly focus on outlining what can go in the recycling and what has to be thrown away.

“The most important thing is sorting because most people just dump everything into the recycling or the trash, but when you sort out what goes in the trash, what goes in the recycling, and what goes in the compost, it just makes the system work better.” continued Glucksman

“It’s so great that so many people care about it, and we are going to try to make it feasible for the recycling to work at all costs,” said Glucksman.

Lagniappe-Potpourri

It has been 80 years since Lagniappe’s debut in 1939. Since then, it has been a beloved tradition. Below are playbills from shows in the 30’s and 40’s.



# Textbook prices remain high despite transition to eBooks

Students turning to online rentals instead of paper textbooks

by Julia Nagel

Despite efforts to reduce textbook costs, students remain frustrated with the high prices they must pay each year at the school bookstore.

Over the past few years, an increasing number of teachers have stopped using paper textbooks for their classes. Instead, they are choosing digital alternatives because they are less expensive and more convenient.

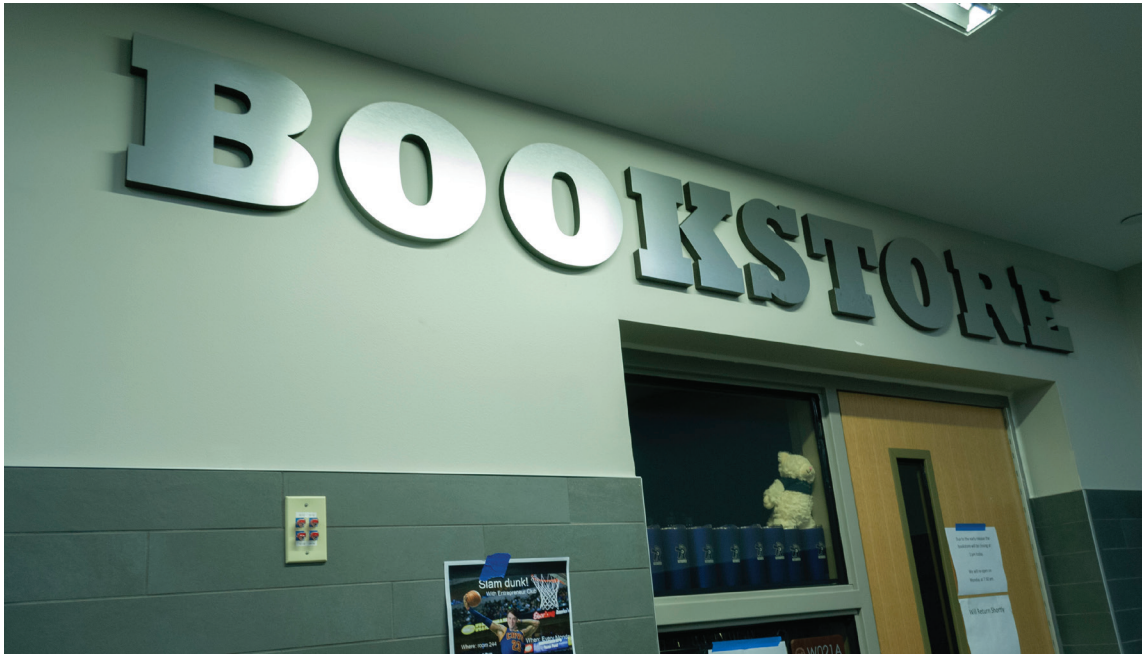
Math teacher Terry Phillips said that in the math department the textbook price plays a significant role in the decision process when textbooks are chosen each year.

“One of the reasons we [switched] to the eBooks is that it turns out to be less expensive for a lot of our students to rent the license for a year versus having to buy the book.”

Phillips added that all three of his math sections this year have rented eBooks through Cengage.

Chemistry teacher Bill Loris reported a similar switch to e-books in the science department, however the reason behind the swap was slightly different. Loris felt it was unfair to ask his students to pay hundreds of dollars for a hardcover textbook that isn’t integral to the class curriculum.

“A lot of the science teachers use textbooks as an additional resource for the students as opposed to



The New Trier bookstore is loathed by students for its exorbitant prices for online textbooks | Towers

following along chapter by chapter, section by section. So, we tend to have our own materials that we use, and textbooks are in addition,” said Loris.

This year, his classes are utilizing OpenStax, a nonprofit group whose eBooks can be accessed free of cost.

School bookstore manager Khyrss Holland said these changes have resulted in a substantial textbook price drop since he first started working at the bookstore in September of 2002.

“Prior to the switch to digital books and the launching of rental, average student textbook costs were around \$850.00 per year. Since the switch to digital and rental, [the

price] has actually fallen to a range of \$100.00 to \$200.00, depending on the level of classes a student is taking.”

Despite this price decrease, students still feel that textbook prices are unreasonably high.

Sophomore Grace Ryan, who spent roughly \$150 on her books this year, believes that eBooks and other online materials are priced much higher than they should be.

“You’re not paying for hardcover and the actual paper. I feel like it really could be so much cheaper,” said Ryan.

Junior Isabel Mangum, who said she spent at least \$200 on books this year, provided an example of why costs can quickly add up at the school bookstore.

“I have one paperback book for English that is a really important text that we will be working with all year, but it cost about \$70 dollars with tax,” said Mangum.

These high prices have led many students to question whether they should skip the school bookstore altogether and shop online for their books in an attempt to reduce prices.

“[I] probably should have gone on Amazon and rented them. I don’t really know why [I] didn’t,” said Sophomore Ellie Wilens who said she paid approximately \$150 for her textbooks in total.

Senior Cain Humphrey pointed out that ordering books online has its downsides.

“They’re cheaper on Amazon,

but sometimes they take a while, like a month, to ship.”

Many students are further frustrated by the prices they have to pay because they oftentimes purchase books that they don’t end up using in class.

“Last year, my math textbook, we bought it and then we didn’t use the entire year, and that was probably like \$80,” said senior Isabella Rechten. She spent \$200 on textbooks this year.

Junior Alex Stofflemay echoed Rectin’s sentiment that a fair amount of the textbooks he purchases for classes are either untouched or only used a handful of times.

“There is a world history book that we never even opened [last year]. Probably math is the only one we consistently use every time,” said Stofflemay.

Holland acknowledged that the school can and should work to continue to reduce textbook prices.

“We need to ask the question, ‘is there a comparable product available from the same or another publisher that costs less and would achieve the same teaching outcomes as the more expensive book being used or considered?’ Also, we need to take a look at programs such as IncludEd or Follett Access that charge a flat fee.”

In the meantime, Holland said that students should feel free to share any suggestions or constructive criticisms.

“I would encourage any student with an idea about how the bookstore can better serve the New Trier community to drop by and discuss it with me,” said Holland.

## Heather Ecklund introduced as new post-high school counselor

The former Warren Township PHSC brings her talents to the North Shore

by Amelia Jacobson

New Trier’s Post High School Counseling department hired two new Counselors for this school year. One of these new arrivals is Heather Ecklund. Counseling at Warren Township High School in Gurnee, IL for eighteen years, Ecklund is excited about her new position and advance in her career as a post high school counselor.

While Warren Township and New Trier have a similar class sizes, they are very different schools, especially in the college search process.

“They start earlier [at New Trier]. I know a lot of the students here started at the end of junior year,” Ecklund said.

Ecklund adds that it’s not too late to start the college process, and that students shouldn’t get too overwhelmed and think they are behind because they are not. New Trier makes it easier to start the college process earlier by introducing juniors to their college counselor and scheduling meetings.

Students attending New Trier are more likely to apply and attend more out-of-state colleges.

“A lot of students at my previous schools would look mostly in the Midwest, while students here are more likely to look on the east coast



Ecklund was a counselor for 13 years at Warrren Township | NT

or the west coast,” Ecklund said.

New Trier has been known to pride itself on its advisory system that allows for student bonding, but the advisory system is also beneficial for the college process.

“What New Trier’s advisory system does is allows for expertise in particular areas. An adviser really has an expertise with those students,” Ecklund said.

An adviser connection allows for better recommendations from counselors because they have had the ability to get to know the student for about two years.

Ecklund decided to apply for the position because she was familiar with the counselors here throughout her time at Warren, and all the opportunities the school had to offer.

She wanted to grow from her

last position and saw New Trier as a great opportunity.

“I know I will be growing both professionally and emotionally as a person,” Ecklund said.

So far Ecklund has had a very positive experience on campus and has felt accepted.

“I have very nice impressions; the students have been very welcoming, the staff has been very welcoming, as well as the parents,” Ecklund said.

She adds that New Trier students have a lot more freedoms than students at her old school.

*‘I have very nice impressions; the students have been very welcoming.’*

“At my old school, if you didn’t have class, you were somewhere accounted for. You [had] study hall or off campus doing something else. Here, when you don’t have class, you have a free period. It’s really nice to see that students are making good use of their free time, [such as] getting homework done or taking a mental break that [they] need.”

As the Nov. 1 college application deadlines creeps closer, seniors are as stressed as ever, but Ecklund wants to remind students to listen to their gut.

“It’s really important to find the fit, not just the name of the college, not just because that’s where your friends are going, or because that’s where mom and dad said that’s where you should go, but because that’s where you want to go,” Ecklund said.

## Are you 17 or 18? Register to vote!

The third Tuesday of every September is unofficial “National Voter Registration Day”. This year’s NVRD is next Tuesday, Sept. 24. It was created to address the problem of low voter turnout during elections.

NVRD is a non-partisan event with the goal of registering as many eligible voters as possible.

League of Women Voters of Wilmette, a non-partisan volunteer organization, is going around to five area high schools on 9/24 to register brand-new voters.

Anyone can register to vote if they will be 18 by election day on November 3, 2020. Those who are 17 can vote in the primary election on March 17, 2020 (as long as they are 18 by 11/3/2020).

League of Women Voters will be at New Trier on 9/24 during morning advisery and



lunch periods outside the cafeteria.

To register in person, bring some form of ID (such as a drivers license or school ID). One form of ID should have a home address on it.

League of Women Voters will also walk students through registering online (studets need their drivers license and last 4 digits of social security number) or by mail.

### Senior class presidents encourages NT-E students 18 and over to register to vote

Now that 18-year-olds can vote in national elections, they are encouraged to register to vote.

In the past, according to Senior Class President Tom Ahlborn, students participated in politics by helping in campaigns, demonstrations, and strikes. Now, he said, it is important for them to take advantage of their right to vote, to show their concern for politics.

Young people really worked hard to get an 18-year-old vote across the country,” Ahlborn said.

Students can register in the clerk’s office of their respective village halls. They must be 18, but do not need to bring birth

certificates. Ahlborn emphasized the importance of college students registering before they leave for college so that they can vote by absentee ballot. The whole process only takes about 10 minutes and gives the student representation in the government.

The clipping above is from the edition of the NT News originally published on June 7, 1971. 18-year-olds were granted the right to vote in 1971 after years of protesting related to the Vietnam War. The minimum age for the draft was 18, yet soldiers aged 18-20 could not vote in the country they were serving.



# Staff Editorial

## People that can afford college should pay for it

Nearly everyone in this country can agree that the cost of college tuition has gotten grossly out of hand. They force students to apply for long term loans and take on debt that will be paying off for years.

The price of a college degree has increased rapidly over the past few decades. According to USA Today, on average tuition in 2018 cost \$48,510 a year for private institutions and \$21,370 for public universities. In 1971, those figures were \$18,140 and \$8,730 respectively adjusting for inflation.

Costs have become so outrageous that even wealthier families, specifically those living on the North Shore, are reluctant to take on the burden of full tuition. Recent investigations in Lake County, Illinois, revealed that dozens of families had taken extreme measures to get their children financial aid and minimize the cost of college.

When students apply for financial aid using forms such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), they submit their family’s tax returns. To hide annual incomes that are too high to qualify for financial aid, parents have handed guardianship of their kids to another person so their child can declare as fiscally independent from their families. This unethical strategy gives money to students whose families can cover the cost of college.

The college admissions process already favors students of higher economic standing. In 2017, the New York Times found that 38 American universities (including five in the Ivy League) had more students from the top 1% of the income scale than the bottom sixty.

There are countless reasons for this discrepancy. Wealthier families can pay for tutors, private counselors, multiple attempts at the ACT or SAT, and so much more. Students that come from affluence are already at an advantage in college admission, but that has not stopped the wealthy from cheating or bending the rules to get in.

Charges from the Varsity Blues scandal have recently been released, most notably celebrity Felicity Huffman’s sentence to 14 days in jail. Huffman also will pay \$30,000 in fines, be on probation for a year, and complete 250 community service hours. For a multimillionaire, this sentencing is not very severe. However, there have been no consequences at all for the guardianship scandal in Illinois

Technically, what these parents are doing is perfectly legal. Parents are allowed to transfer guardianship so long as it proves to be in the child’s best interest. Governor JB Pritzker has pledged to end the practice, but it is likely that wealthier families can find other ways to cheat the system.

Affluent families, already at an advantage, have the resources and capacity to manipulate the process to their benefit. When they are caught, the punishment tends to be lackluster. Wealthy students using this strategy are robbing those that worked hard to overcome economic obstacles in the college process in the first place.

There are countless valid reasons that a student would need to declare independence from their parents, such as estrangement or foster care. Tuition is expensive, but the people that can afford college tuition should pay for it - not steal from those who cannot.

According to the Federal Reserve, as of June 2019, Americans owe over 1.6 trillion dollars in student debt alone. Going to college used to open doors, increase opportunities for better jobs, and allow for an increase in capital. Today, upon graduation students are already steeped in debt that follows them for decades.

When affluent families scam their way into aid, they are not only denying a worthy candidate of college tuition -- they are ensuring that more students who could qualify for aid will be forced into years of debt, economic uncertainty, and worry. This only increases income inequality and inhibits the possibility for upward mobility, which is a fundamental reason to go to college in the first place.



Katia Tsytsarina

# Growing up in the shadow of 9/11



by Eva Roytburg

There are very few New Trier students who were alive during the attacks of 9/11, 2001.

Last Wednesday, on the 18th anniversary of the tragedy, I watched that realization fall upon teacher after teacher, some of whom must’ve noticed the disparity of personal experience among teachers and students. Solemn gaps in discussion were filled with teachers recalling watching the tallest towers in New York City fall, and for me, it felt like all we students could do was nod.

Each person has his or her own personal interaction with 9/11, but to many students, it’s just a tragic event in history, one of the last documented in our textbooks.

In an internet-saturated environment we simply cannot internalize the confusion of the time, the inability to know the scope of the attack and who was behind it, without having lived through it ourselves.

The most difficult to comprehend, for me at least, was the sense of unity and purpose in America following the terrorist attack.

My mom and dad talk about it all the time - 9/12, a day where

we clawed back and became one country fighting against an evil, a day that drummed enough of a beat for us to run into war in Afghanistan.

I feel so far removed from such a world.

18 years following the 9/11 attack, America faces a new form of terrorism - domestic terrorism. On Aug. 3, a terrorist who, according to the New York Times, wrote that he feared a “Hispanic invasion of Texas” was replacing white Americans opened fire in a Walmart in El Paso. In April, another terrorist opened fire at a synagogue in Poway, California, in the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the United States. There is a resurgence of white nationalist terrorism in America but it does not receive the response of 9/11, but a flurry of “thoughts and prayers.”

In response to the shooting of a gay nightclub in Orlando, the current Administration blamed it on “a dysfunctional immigration system.” When there was violence in a clash between white supremacists and counter-protesters in Charlottesville, President Trump himself proclaimed that there were “fine people” on both sides of that deadly event.

White supremacy is violent ideology that has manifested itself in a new and dangerous form -- anonymous online forums. Websites like 8chan and 4chan have become cesspools for white nationalist activity. In the wake of the synagogue shooting an anonymous user posted a picture on “Target Selection,” providing a blueprint for how to kill more bodies in a mass shooting, according to the New York

Times.

Yet, there is barely any law enforcement effort to contain and manage these communities. Granted, the users are anonymous, making it endlessly more difficult to track down.

Tech companies seem unwilling to treat white nationalist terror online like they dealt with the spread of radical Islamic groups. According to the Washington Post, companies like Twitter and Facebook removed tens of thousands of pieces of ISIS and Al-Qaeda propaganda from their sites.

This is the reality that the children of 9/11 live in, and this is the reality that we must work to overcome. The U.S. spent billions overseas on public diplomacy to safeguard American lives and we must undertake a similar effort at home; we need a concerted effort to reach into hate-filled environments and diffuse extremist narratives.

This effort can and must begin with us. If you hear your friends using a slur or talking about a community of individuals in a hateful way, stop them, correct them. If you are worried about someone who seems to be in a position to hurt others or themselves, talk to an adult. If you want to bring to light an issue with the community, post about it online; be vocal, be loud. Do not use your age as an excuse to be indifferent. Use it as a platform to cut hate off at its roots.

The post - 9/11 generation has inherited a structural environment seething with hostility, and we must be the ones to dismantle it.

# Please just let teenage girls live



by Emma Mansour

I go on Twitter. A lot. And so I see a lot of trends in terms of what people like to tweet about. There’s a lot of stuff about politics, some sports, and funny stuff.

The funny stuff is divided into a few different categories, one being ‘kind of mean to other people in order to be funny.’ Often times, this is well deserved, with people responding to someone being ridiculous or who’s spewing racist rhetoric. That’s fine. I support it. But another thing that people like to make fun of a lot is girls.

Girls are constantly villainized for existing, and I really just do not understand why. We may not even notice it since it’s so common, but no matter what they’re doing, people find reasons to critique anything and everything girls enjoy. Taking selfies, wearing too much makeup, not wearing makeup, liking Billie Eilish, using plastic straws, wearing short skirts, wearing band tees, you name it.

Think about the trend of VSCO girls. Scrunchies, Hydro-flasks, and everything else associated with this personality type is made fun of and mocked, but for what reason?

They’re just being kids. They’re not hurting anyone. And it was the same a few years ago with “Tumblr girls,” who were basically just VSCO girls but back when Tumblr was a thing. They were condemned for doing what they enjoyed until it became almost taboo to aspire to the Tumblr aesthetic.

I’m not saying this is sexism, but it’s probably sexism. And this of course isn’t exclusive to girls; it’s kind of just anyone that shows interest in something that may seem traditionally feminine. But I just tend to see it more with people that identify as girls.

Think about all the things guys get so into without anyone saying a word. Never in my short 17 years have I heard someone make fun of a guy for doing (Playing? Participating in? Idk the terminology) fantasy football. I’m sure that if girls did a fantasy football for Bachelor in Paradise there would probably be a riot.

At face value, making fun of girls for their passing interests seems harmless. Yeah, I guess these trends are kind of materialistic, so why not tease them about it? The thing is, jokes add up, and after a while they aren’t that funny.

I don’t think we consider what this does to girls. I know for myself, and I’m sure for a lot of other girls, the constant teasing about things I liked when I was younger made me feel stupid for liking them in the first place. If there was something that I felt would warrant a joke, I would avoid talking about it just to minimize the chances of a joke being made about me.

I think this is reflective of greater issues in our society that seem to be perpetuated by social media. It’s not a new thing to think less of girly things or to arbitrarily criticize girls, but having a thousand other people on Twitter retweeting your jokes about them only serves as incentive to do it more.

People can be annoying. I get it. But at this point, mocking girls has become an endless cycle - girls find a new thing that they like, people notice that teenage girls are into something, and make their life mission to shame it out of existence.

More often than not, teenage girls are just being teenage girls. They have enough to deal with, and the last thing they need is more people telling them to stop doing things that make them happy. They’re not doing anything to hurt you or intentionally annoy you.

As cliché as it sounds, live and let live. It’s really not that difficult.

# The New Trier News

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# Field hockey routs Wisconsin opponent Arrowhead

## Team Looks To Avoid Complacency Amid Dominant Run

by *Mattea Carberry*

Even after letting in two goals in the final minutes of the game, the girls field hockey team came out with a 7-2 win over Arrowhead, a Wisconsin team.

After sealing a 5-2 win over North Shore Country Day on Sept. 11, they came back stronger only a few days later on Sept. 14 to pull out yet another win against the Wisconsin team.

In the two days of practice that separated the two games, junior Katherine Groff pointed out that they applied special focus to strengthening their defense.

“We worked on defense a lot during these two days of practice and it was definitely shown in this game,” said Groff. “There was a lot better team defense which is something we wanted to work on after North Shore.”

Junior Hillary Cox acknowledged that they saw some improvements but defense is still a major component they intend to continue improving throughout the rest of the season.

“We’re having trouble figuring out who’s marking and dropping, but we spent a long practice yesterday working on that so we’re improving hopefully,” said Cox.

As can be seen in the last two games, the girls have little trouble getting goals and winning games, but senior Amy Griffin noted that there’s still room for improvement.

“One of our weaknesses is not playing through the whole game,” she said. “Like in the North Shore game, we had a pretty big lead and then we let the other team score late in the game.”

Head coach Stephanie Nykaza stressed the importance of not letting their good record get in the way of still seeking improvement as a team.

“We have to keep moving forward and we have to keep improving even though sometimes people look at our record and they’re like ‘oh you’re so good’ [when we] still have a lot of areas we need to work on,” said Nykaza.

Groff also mentioned that one of their primary goals is to make sure the whole team is collectively making the defense stronger.

“We’ve been working on our team defense and making sure that every level is dropping back and helping out,” Groff said.

Despite still striving for a better defense, the team saw lots of



*The team gathers following their victory over Arrowhead on Sept. 14 | NT Booster Club Twitter*

positives in how their offensive game clicked.

“We had six different goal scorers for seven goals which is pretty impressive,” said Griffin. “We were able to connect really well with each other today.”

Cox shared the same feelings that their offense significantly pulled through in Saturday’s game.

“Our attack was really good today,” she said. “We had the best passing we’d ever had in awhile.”

Although the game against Arrowhead isn’t a conference game, their win still adds value to the team’s standing both regionally and nationally.

“Right now we are number one

in the Midwest and eleventh in the country so the win only helps us keep our standing,” said Griffin.

Groff said she liked the opportunity to play a different team and thought it helped their team in the long run.

“It’s sometimes nice to play tougher teams that are out of state because we don’t get the chance to play them often,” she said.

Going forward, as they prepare to face Lake Forest and participate in a national tournament in Pennsylvania, the team seeks to continue refining their defense.

“Our transition game is our number one goal,” said Nykaza. “How we transition back, how we

pick up people defensively and how we communicate back there [is] huge because offense wins games and defense wins championships.”

Despite their respectable rankings both regionally and nationally, Nykaza is careful not let those numbers get to their heads.

While she likes to acknowledge and reinforce all the things the team is doing well, she thinks it’s even more crucial to focus on the areas in which they are lacking so they can perform even better.

“I don’t like to talk about [the rankings] too much because even though they deserve the recognition and the credit, we still have to keep winning,” Nykaza said.

## Varsity football falls to 1-1 following 34-3 rout



*New Trier remains winless since rivalry’s renewal | NT Booster Twitter*

by *Connor Caserio*

On Saturday, Sept. 7th, New Trier varsity football fell 34-3 in a much-anticipated non-conference game against the Loyola Academy Ramblers.

The Trevians had a strong start to the game, moving the ball down the field and kicking a field goal to make the score 7-3 at the end of the first quarter.

From the second quarter on, the game went downhill as costly penalties and miscues allowed the Ramblers to dominate.

“We were competitive for a while until we really got to the midpoint of the second quarter,” said head coach Brian Doll. “After that point in time, the game kind of slipped away from us a little bit.”

Over the course of the game, the Trevians had two special team turnovers and were twice unable to punch it in within the 5 yard line due to penalties and other mistakes. Doll attributed the Trevians’ struggles after the first quarter to their relative inexperience and lack of depth.

This year’s team features a lot of sophomore and junior starters playing their first year on varsity, and many Trevian starters have to play an offensive and a defensive position. As a result, the Trevians’ usual nerves for

their big rivalry game versus Loyola were heightened because of the team’s youth.

Likewise, the Trevians’ lack of depth mean that they were far more fatigued than their Rambler counterparts throughout the game, which contributed to the mistakes that cost them the game.

“We had to fall back on the pass a little more with the big Loyola defensive line,” said sophomore quarterback Nevan Cremascoli, the Trevians’ starter.

Looking ahead, Doll and his team agree that their key to success will lie in cleaning up the penalties and miscues that hurt them against Loyola.

“[We need] to clean up the small mistakes so that we can execute more to win games,” said junior offensive tackle Luca Wojewski.

If the Trevians can clean up their play by practicing concentration and focus, they will gain confidence in their abilities and play better football by the time conference games and playoffs roll around.

“We’re gonna see a lot of growth with this team, we’re very talented, but we are very young,” said Doll. “As we get more and more games in, I think we’ll see successes at the end of the year.”

## Girls volleyball drops rematch with Loyola

### Long Runs Doom Trevians In Two Set Loss

by *Matt Murray*

The varsity girls volleyball team was defeated 25-16 and 25-12 by the Loyola Ramblers on Sept. 11 at Gates Gym, dropping the team’s record to 6-3.

The game was a rematch after New Trier’s victory over the Ramblers in the Summer’s End Tournament final on Sept. 7, which put the team in the unique situation of facing the same opponent for the second consecutive game.

However, playing the Ramblers for a second time in five days worked against the Trevians.

“Our goal was to find vulnerable areas in their game that we could expose. However, they did the same and ultimately targeted us in a way that made it difficult to adjust,” said senior Nikki Schmidt.

The adjustments made against the Trevians were apparent in both sets as they struggled to respond to a pair of backbreaking Loyola runs.

After playing to an 11-8 deficit in the first set, the Trevians surrendered 12 of the next 13 points which ultimately put the set out of reach, and despite being down by just two points in the second set, the Trevians were outscored 15-4 in the final 19 points.

“We didn’t want to be predictable—so we changed up our lineup to try and put new people against each other at the net. We also set our blocks up so they would have to hit different shots than they did last game,” said senior Lulu McShane. “However, Loyola did a fantastic job at adjusting to our lineup, and they played amazingly.”

The dry-spells that the Trevians experienced were also due to uncharacteristic offensive struggles.

Senior Cat Flood led the team with seven kills, followed by fellow senior Maggie Bodman with three,



*The team celebrates their Summer’s End Tournament Victory | NT Twitter*

but the team could never string together a run that could match Loyola’s offensive onslaught.

“Everyone works so hard as individuals, and normally it shows on the court,” said Flood. “Everyone is always there physically, but volleyball is basically all mental, and that is something we really struggle with.”

Despite flashing potential at times during the game, the Trevians’ inability to sustain their high level of play was what ultimately led to the loss. The team’s struggles with consistency and keeping their composure are precisely what they want to improve upon going forward.

“We need to work on being consistent within all areas of our game,” said Schmidt. “The team with the fewest unforced errors is the team that is going to come out on top, so we need to keep our own error count low in order to win.”

Becoming more consistent could pay major dividends for the team considering they have already shown their potential in victories over quality opponents.

In the final two rounds of the Summer’s End Tournament, the team defeated an Oak Park River Forest team loaded with future Division I volleyball players before their aforementioned victory over the Ramblers.

“This team is a very talented group, and we have a lot of options in terms of being able to generate

offense from all different positions,” said head coach Hannah Hsieh. “And [the players] are incredibly hardworking; they are a great group to work with.”

With the postseason still over a month away, the team will have plenty of time to gel and continue to gain experience against quality opponents.

They have two match-ups against conference opponent Glenbrook South and will be competing in the prestigious Mother McAuley Tournament during the first weekend of October.

“We lost a big part of our starting lineup from last year, so there are a lot of learning opportunities for the girls taking over those roles. My hope for us is to keep getting better with every opportunity, so we can use our talent to meet our full potential,” said Schmidt.

Despite the loss to Loyola, the team still has their sights set on another deep postseason run and a trip to Normal for the state finals.

“As a team we have set quite a few goals; our first being undefeated in conference and making it down state. Before that, we want to focus on the mental game, our defensive capabilities, maintaining a 2.0 serve receive average per game, and have few serving errors,” said Flood. “With that all in order, we should come out as being a top team in our conference as well as the state.”